

HAZMATPAC®

209605

UN CERTIFIED PACKAGING

5301 POLK STREET, BLDG. 18

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77023

www.HAZMATPAC.com

713.923.2222

1.800.923.9123

FAX 713.923.1111

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE

02 DEC 26 PM 1:02

December 18, 2002

Dockets Management System, U.S.
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St. SW, Room PL 401
Washington, DC 20590

RE: RSPA-2002-13658(HM-215E) - 7

I am requesting a written response to this letter. In the new requirements for absorbent material in 173.27 section (5) states "Absorbent material is not required if the inner packagings are so protected that breakage of them and leakage of their contents from the outer packaging is not likely to occur under normal conditions of transportation".

Knowing the basic reason or justification for the United Nations testing is to determine if a package is safe for transport and inner container cannot breakage and still pass the test, does it not stand for reason that if a packaging passes the United Nations testing then it would meet the criteria to not require absorbent material.

If not, what additional testing would meet this requirement. If some additional testing would allow a packaging to meet the criteria, why are these tests not currently required to pass the United Nations objective of safe transport.

I do not believe the intention of the ICAO or IATA committees was to make the absorbent requirement less stringent. I believe the committees made the requirement for absorbent material so stringent, cumbersome and expensive to achieve that the only way everyone agreed was to allow for an out. A cost benefit analysis must be conducted before this type of regulation is adopted. Why create more requirements which give an appearance of additional regulations but relaxes the regulations more?

To restate my question: "If a package is tested to meet the United Nations performance requirements and passes, does the passing of the test allow for the elimination of absorbent material for air shipments?".

If it does not, my next question is "What additional tests are required to meet the elimination of absorbent material for air shipments?".

If additional testing would be required for meets the elimination of absorbent material, "why are these tests not currently required for all United Nations testing?".

I look forward to your response, I can be contacted at the above address with any questions.

Respectfully,

Donald H. Hausmann